

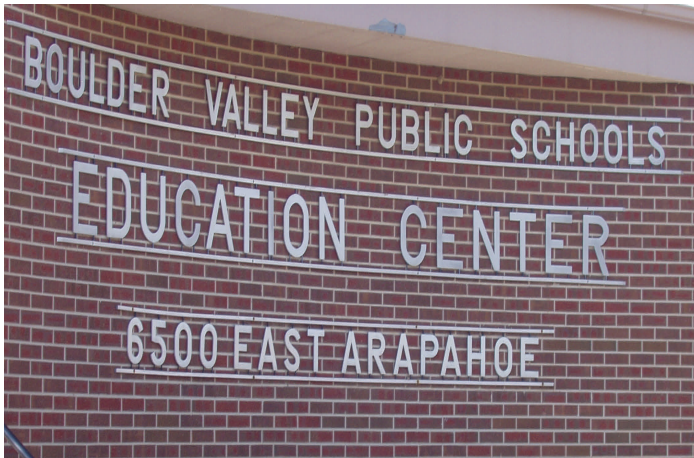


**Boulder
County
Chapter**

Newsletter

July 2006

Boulder Chapter and Youth Programs



BIG members participated in the African Heritage Youth Leadership Connection (AHYLC) Conference sponsored by the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) on April 27, 2006.

Ahgo? (Are you listening?) Ahmae! (We hear you!) With this exchange of words Opalanga Pugh opened the African Heritage Youth Leadership Connection (AHYLC) Conference and began teaching through song and story. She said that *Sankofa* was the image of a bird looking back and sometimes with an egg to represent the future. Opalanga urged students to reach back and learn the knowledge of the past. She stressed that they were the ancestors of the future.

In the style of Sweet Honey in the Rock, the male students chanted in low voices, "We are the ones, We are the ones, we've been waiting." The female students in higher voices chanted in return, "We are the ones, we've been waiting for." After this exercise, the students were united for the rest of the day.

Opalanga next took the students on an ancestral journey. She asked them to imagine their same sex parent and great grand parent when they were the

same age as the student. She asked students to imagine asking their ancestors how they earned a living, what was their greatest source of satisfaction, what was their greatest challenge, how were they perceived in society, and what were their limitations. Opalanga asked the students to step into their ancestor's body and mind and ask the same questions.

With this began a day filled with exciting exchanges of information for more than 60 students on what it's like to be a student of African ancestry living in Boulder County. The conference organizers arranged sessions to provide discussion on the past, the present and the future. The morning sessions covered "The Past: Where Have We Been?" and included three concurrent workshops: Listen Up Y'all.- by Johnna Wynn and Malaika Pettigrew; Who Are We?- by Jeff Campbell; Telling Stories - by Opalanga Pugh.



Conference organizers Left to Right: Norma Johnson, Conference Coordinator; Rudy Miick; Joel Johnson; Nicole Manning; Anissa Butler; & Tim Barnes. Not pictured are Samm Donelson; Jackie McLendon; Carla Sherrill; Johnna Wynn; Malaika Pettigrew; and Derik Love.

Boulder Chapter and Youth Programs (from page 1)



Opalanga Pugh presided over the opening session and facilitated a workshop titled, "Telling Stories." She was a dynamic presence and was available to the students throughout the day.

One of the more obvious learning experiences and a lesson on how to get key points across to students was presented by Jeff Campbell. His workshop was on relationships. He asked students to list the issues that they faced. The students listed: Hate crimes at CU; Stereotyping; the "N" word; Profiling and being pulled over; Small numbers; Lack of culture outlets; Hip Hop culture misunderstandings by other groups; Acceptance; and Drugs and alcohol.

He then asked what could make this a better society. Students listed: Diversity, Peace; Equality; Education; Communication; Happiness and Love; Laughter; Freedom, Unity; Acceptance; and Responsibility.

Jeff followed this by asking what could bring these two lists together to create a better world. The students connected the lists and determined that improving "relationships" were the key to creating a better world for everyone. It was obvious that this lesson was learned by everyone!



Jeff Campbell, from the Hip Hop Coalition in Denver presented workshops on Hip Hop culture and one on relationships described earlier on this page.

Most of the credit for the AHYLC Conference justifiably goes to Norma Johnson who pulled together the students, the speakers, the financing and the energy required to present a successful conference. Credit also goes to Pam Duran and the BVSD's Department of Institutional Equity and Multicultural Education for supporting the existence of this and other youth institutes.

Members of Boulder County Blacks In Government took pleasure in participating with the conference committee and the students and teachers from the BVSD. These activities are in keeping with the model set in the 2003 National Training Conference in Denver where it was decided that BIG would work with local youth to improve community conditions in the areas of education, employment and civil rights.

The oratorical competitions described on page 4 are also in keeping with BIG's work with youth in the local community. It is our hope that students learn to think BIG as they continue with their education beyond high school and pursue employment careers of their choice.

More Scenes from the AHYLC Conference 2006



MORE PICTURES ON PAGE #4

More AHYLC Student Highlights



Scenes from the Boulder County BIG Oratorical Contest and Mile High Chapter Logo



ABOVE FROM LEFT: Wilford Buggs, President, Boulder County Chapter of BIG; Tonya Savalis, Community Liaison, Boulder Valley Schools; Students Kevin Yang, and Magdalena Wegrzyn, and Richard Shields, National 3rd Vice President Blacks In Government. **TOP:** Panel of Judges Left to Right: Wally Clark, Rhonda Carpenter, and Stephanie Outcalt.



ABOVE: Magdalena Wegrzyn, winner of 11-12th grade students and Kevin Yang, winner of 9-10th grade students. Each student received a \$150 prize for winning their student category in the Boulder Oratorical Contest.

National Events

- Waverly Person, Mr. Earthquake, retired on February 3, 2006, after 51 years of tracking earthquakes around the world for the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado. He is believed to be the first African American earthquake seismologist. Person started his career with the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. in 1955 when DOC headed the government's seismic monitoring. In 1973, responsibility for the Earthquake Center transferred to the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden. **BIG congratulates Waverly Person for his outstanding career as a scientist and role model!**
- BIG joins the nation in grieving the loss of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Register now for the BIG National Training Conference which will be held in New York this year. Get information at [www. Bignet.org](http://www.Bignet.org).
- Welcome back to Boulder County BIG member, Chet Madej, who has returned from volunteering for the Katrina disaster in New Orleans. Information of Chet's detail will be presented in a future issue of the BIG newsletter.

BOULDER EVENTS

The Boulder Valley School District hosted the African Heritage Youth Leadership Connection Conference on April 27th. This newsletter presents information on the successful conference where over 60 students attended.

The Colorado oratory competitions were held in Aurora, Colorado on May 6th. The winners of the competition were Enoch Arthur-Asmah, 11th-12th grade, and Stacy Jones, 9th-10th grade. Both will compete in New York at the 2006 BIG National Training Conference. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ORATORICAL CONTEST!**

IMPORTANT DATES

Delegates to the Blacks In Government National Training Conference in New York should make early plans to attend from 19 –26 August so they can participate in all the delegate voting activities and participate in the NTC.

The writer Nikki Giovanni said:

"You, my children of battle, are your heroes. You must invent your own games and teach us old ones how to play."

Goals and Objectives

- Serve as an advocate for equal employment opportunities and conditions that affect its members (hires, promotions and retentions).
- Promote the professional development of BIG members at all levels of employment in the Boulder area.
- Maintain a liaison with government agencies which have established BIG chapters and assist those interested in starting new chapters.
- Provide for the completion, synthesis and dissemination of information on issues of concerns to BIG members, such as job vacancies and training opportunities.
- Serve as a forum for addressing issues that have an impact upon its members so that they may better know and express their views on matters which affect them.
- Enhance the promotion of ethnic pride with socio-economic, civic and cultural programs, and fellowship, to unite Blacks and other government employees
- Work toward the elimination of racism in government agencies.

Officers and Members

- President: Wilford Buggs, Retired from NOAA/MASC.
- 1st Vice President: Richard Shields, USGS.
- 2nd Vice President: Ray Stewart, NOAA Boulder Building Mgmt.
- Secretary: Derik Love, NIST Post Doc.
- Treasurer: Byron Louis, NOAA/ NWS.
- Parliamentarian: Katy Stewart, NOAA Research.



Front Row: Becky Rios, Byron Louis (Treasurer), Georgia Madrid, Henry Guilford, Wilford Buggs (President)
Back Row: Tony Tafoya, Chet Madej, Katy Stewart (Parliamentarian), Ray Stewart (2nd Vice President) Carol Werner, Derik Love (Secretary), Richard Shields (1st Vice President and National 3rd Vice President)

Boulder County Blacks In Government Chapter Highlights

- Richard Shields, National 3rd Vice President of BIG made contact with Mr. Togo West of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Working with the Joint Center to increase the awareness of the desperate treatment to the displaced victims of the Katrina disaster, he is helping to create a White Paper on how to rebuild the affected areas. The Joint Center is sponsoring the National Policy Alliance Committee. This committee's function is to gather information, produce reports with findings for the entire committee, and put together a document with substance on issues and to disseminate to press people for media releases.
- The Boulder County Chapter President, Mr. Wilford Buggs and Region VIII Council President, Mrs. Michelle Blackmon nominated Richard Shields for the National office of 3rd Vice President of BIG. Included in the nomination were examples of Richard's leadership qualities for: Improvement, sustainability, adaptability, efficiency, process, and participation. The nomination stressed that Richard would be a strong supporter of Darlene Young, President of BIG, through positive words, deeds and a commitment to the entire BIG membership.
- **The membership of Boulder County Blacks In Government express sincere gratitude to Dr. Derik Love who has served the chapter as Secretary and as a vital player in the community and within the Boulder laboratories of the U.S. Department of Commerce. His post-doc appointment with NIST will end this summer and Derik and his family will relocate to Michigan. Derik will be remembered for his generosity, his intellect, and for the professionalism he brought to Blacks In Government.**



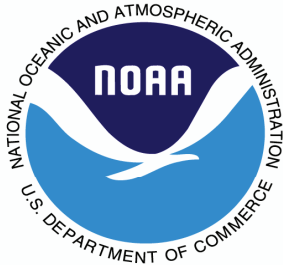
THE BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been
watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of
the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till not we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who had brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we
met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we
forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.



**NOAA's Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research
supports the
Blacks In Government
28th Annual National Training Conference
New York City, NY 2006**

MAJOR RESEARCH THEMES:

**CLIMATE
OCEANS, GREAT LAKES AND COASTS
WEATHER AND AIR QUALITY**



NOAA Research labs are located throughout the country and offer a variety of career opportunities:

Earth System Research Lab - Boulder, CO

Physics, Research Chemistry, Meteorology, IT Specialist, Electronics Engineer and Physical Science

Air Resources Lab - Silver Spring, MD

Meteorology and Physical Science

Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Lab -

Miami, FL Oceanography, Meteorology and IT Specialist

Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab - Princeton, NJ

Meteorology and Physical Science

Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab - Ann

Arbor, MI Physical Science, Oceanography and Ecology

National Severe Storms Lab - Norman, OK

Meteorology and Electronics Tech

Pacific Marine Environmental Lab -Seattle, WA

Oceanography, IT Specialist and Physical Science

For More information
NOAA Research EEO Office
Phone: 303-497-6439/6732/6731
Website: <http://eeo.boulder.noaa.gov>

NOAA Research Website: www.oar.noaa.gov
NOAA Jobs: www.noaa.gov/jobs.html



NOAA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Boulder County BIG Chapter – Region VIII
6798 Paiute Ave
Longmont, CO 80503
303-652-2554
wwbuggs@aol.com

Membership Application Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name	
Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Employer Name	
Work Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Membership Information #7-06

Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____ Federal _____ State _____ Local/County _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership Dues are \$55.00 (\$35 National and \$20.00 local chapter).

Boulder County BIG Chapter
6798 Paiute Avenue
Longmont, CO 80503